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1993/04/15

ZHU Rongji
(Phonetic: joo)
(2612/6954/1015)

CHINA

*Member, Standing Committee,
Politburo, Chinese Communist
Party (CCP) (since October 1992);
Vice Premier (since 1991)*

Addressed as: Mr. Vice Premier

Zhu Rongji is widely regarded as a strong supporter of Deng Xiaoping's economic reform program and the principal official responsible for China's economic and trade affairs. In July 1991 he was charged with resolving the problem of debt chains and named director of a newly established State Council Production Office. His authority was further enhanced in early 1992 when he was placed in charge of the new Economic and Trade Office, which absorbed the Production Office. His protegee Wang Zhongyu was chosen to succeed him as head of the bureaucratically upgraded Economic Trade Commission.

Zhu was born on 1 October 1928. A student activist, he joined the CCP in 1949. After graduating from Qinghua University in 1951 with a degree in electrical engineering, he worked successively in the Fuel and Power Bureau, General Affairs Bureau, and Mechanical Bureau of the State Planning Commission. In 1958 Zhu was labeled a rightist and spent the next 20 years in an obscure position in the economic planning bureaucracy. After his rehabilitation in 1979, he was transferred to the State Economic Commission. He was appointed director of the SEC's Technology Transformation Bureau in 1982 and served as vice



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minister of the SEC from 1983 until 1988, when he was named mayor of Shanghai. He held a concurrent assignment as dean of Qinghua University. Zhu was elected an alternate member of the Central Committee in 1987 and became secretary of the Shanghai CCP committee in 1989. He is now a full Central Committee member.

Zhu meets frequently with foreign businessmen and economic officials as well as other visiting dignitaries. He led a delegation of mayors to the United States in 1990. Zhu has also visited Australia, New Zealand, and several European nations. He speaks some English. Zhu enjoys reading Chinese literature, watching Peking opera, and playing the *huqin*, a two-stringed instrument. He and his wife play tennis. The couple has a son.

15 April 1993